

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062416

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:FMCNEIL:JD

APPROVED BY ARA - MR. ROGERS

USOAS:WMAILLIARD (DRAFT)

S/S -JMEALUM

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P 192345Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062416

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTION

REF: ASUNCION 0573

FOR AMBASSADOR LANDAU FROM ASST SEC ROGERS AND AMB MAILLIARD

1. FYI: IF SAPENA PASTOR HAS IN FACT DECIDED TO DROP OUT OF THE RACE FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERAL, HE MIGHT FIND A MEASURE OF COMPENSATORY HONOR FOR PARAGUAY AND FOR HIMSELF IN THE IMPORTANT POST OF CHAIRMAN OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WHEN A MEMBER COUNTRY HOSTS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ITS FOREIGN MINISTER IS TRADITIONALLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN. BUT WHEN THE ASSEMBLY IS HELD AT OAS HEADQUARTERS, AS IT IS THIS YEAR, THEN THE CHAIRMANSHIP BECOMES A TRULY ELECTIVE OFFICE AND A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE.

2. IN MANY WAYS SAPENA PASTOR WOULD BE A NATURAL CHOICE FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP WERE HE NOT A CANDIDATE FOR THE SYG POST. HE IS AN ABLE, IF AUSTERE, CHAIRMAN AND HIS EXPERIENCE COMMANDS RESPECT. AND THERE
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PAGE 02 STATE 062416

IS PRECEDENT FOR THE ELECTION OF AN EXPERIENCED,

OUTGOING FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE 1973 ELECTION OF
THEN VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI TO THE POST.

3. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO NO ONE, SO WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE
STRONG OPPOSITION TO HIS SYG CANDIDACY WOULD EXTEND TO
THE CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT WE RATHER DOUBT IT. IN FACT
SOME OF SAPENA PASTOR'S OPPONENTS MIGHT WELCOME THIS
APPROACH AS A WAY OF OPENING THE DOOR TO A CONSENSUS
BEHIND A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE SYG CANDIDATE. END FYI

4. COULD YOU, THEREFORE, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CON-
VERSATION REPORTED REFTEL, DETERMINE WHETHER SAPENA
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OASGA CHAIRMANSHIP. WE WANT TO
AVOID CONVEYING, HOWEVER INADVERTENTLY, ANY HINT OF A
US SUGGESTION THAT HE WITHDRAW FROM SECRETARY GENERAL
RACE. YOU WILL THEREFORE WANT TO PUT THE MATTER AS
YOUR PERSONAL NOTION.

5. PLEASE LET US KNOW HIS VIEWS SOONEST. IF DESPITE
YOUR EARLIER CONVERSATION, HE NOW PLANS TO STAY IN
THE RACE, WE NEED TO KNOW THAT. AND IF HE IS GOING
TO BOW OUT BUT HAS NO INTEREST IN THE CHAIRMANSHIP,
WE NEED TO KNOW THAT IN ORDER TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES
FOR THAT POST. INGERSOLL

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